

## **XXVII EURAGRI Conference 2013**

**Co-hosted by the Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture under the Lithuanian EU  
Presidency**

**Vilnius, 30 September – 1 October 2013**

**Hotel BEST WESTERN Vilnius, Konstitucijos av. 14, Vilnius**



### **Framing the challenges of European agricultural research – Innovation, stakeholder involvement and the supply and production chain**

Innovation, both social and technological innovation, is considered one of the most important prerequisites to tackle the grand challenges as formulated in Europe 2020 and to achieve the implementation of sustainable agricultural production and rural development as emphasised in the new CAP. Knowledge is considered one of the most important prerequisites for innovation and research institutions are regarded as key providers of knowledge. However it appears that the knowledge produced is not sufficiently used for innovation purposes. Therefore we need to reflect on the institutional framework of knowledge production and what encourages and discourages its use in the innovation system. The reflections should take into account European diversity, how we can benefit from it and learn from each other to design forward looking strategies for our part of the world. We wish to address the following issues during the conference:

- The research and innovation funding policy, at national as well as at European level
- The increasing concern to promote solely the aims of 'innovation' in Europe
- The specifications that relate to agricultural and food production systems and doing so taking into account the entire agri-food supply and production chains
- The difficulty to improve the connections between the different parts of the chains, especially taking into account the different actors operating in the different parts.
- The important role of stakeholders (often of local character) both to be involved in the research definition phases as well as in the implementation and innovation activities.

EURAGRI invites you to its 2013 annual conference to participate in the strategic discussion on these types of European challenges including the possible roles of research to contribute to solutions. This conference is an official event under the Lithuanian EU presidency and the issues to be discussed have also been identified as very important by the Lithuanian presidency.

## Sunday, 29 September

20:00 Reception at the conference venue

## Monday, 30 September

8:00 **Excursion to the Institute of Horticulture** of Lithuanian Research centre for Agriculture and Forestry, Instituto al. 1, 58344 Kedainiai, Lithuania

10:00 Welcome by the director  
Micro seminars on different topics

15:30 **Conference opening – Plenary session I**  
(by the representatives of the local host at the Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture and of EURAGRI) Lithuanian Vice-minister of Agriculture Mindaugas Kuklierius

15:40-16:45 Søren Mikkelsen lecture:  
The complexity of system innovation and transition processes, the challenges attached and the potential ways to address them. Professor Philippe Baret, University of Louvain

16:45-17:30 Report on the outcome of the EURAGRI knowledge workshop: “Conditions that support the use for innovation and application” held on 4 July.

17:30-18:30 **General Assembly**, EURAGRI member organisations

19:00 Departure for dinner

## Tuesday, 1 October

8:30 **Plenary session II**

8:30 Welcome and Lithuanian outlook  
“Strategy outlook by the Lithuanian presidency”,  
Presented by the Lithuanian Minister of Agriculture, Professor Vigilijus Jukna

9:00 Innovation and stakeholders’ involvement: new challenges for agricultural research organisations in the face of new instruments.  
Nikiforos Sivenas, Principal Advisor DG-Agri

9:30-10.15 European diversity – hurdle or driver for innovation

10:15 Coffee

**10:30-11:45 4 Breakout Sessions**

1. European cultural and geographic diversity is a source which allows capturing and mobilising local/regional strength (smart specialisation), how to balance European versus regional/local knowledge circulation?
2. Diversity of end-users, what are consequences for innovation strategies including investments, involvement of stakeholders, knowledge flow and circulation?
3. Research institutions, how to deal with the differences in scale of approach and the promotion of holistic solutions?
4. Global outlook – European strategic considerations facing world agricultural pressures.

11:45-12:15 **Reports** from the breakout session

12:15-13:15 Lunch

**13:15 Plenary III**

13:15

**Panel discussion**

Rolf Annerberg, FORMAS and high level group for Joint Programming

Director of Agroscope, Paul Steffen

Mindaugas Silininkas, Head of the forest biotechnology company “Euromediena”

And general discussion

14: 45 Rounding up and summary by EURAGRI representative

14: 55 Final words from the Lithuanian hosts

15:00 End of conference and coffee

